

a base mounting the filter to the base, (Fig. 2, #11) (claim 1).

Applicant has carefully reviewed Pett '535. As understood, items 1 and 9 in Fig. 2 of Pett '535 are applied as the first and second end caps of claim 1 (as shown at 22 and 24 in Fig. 4 of the present application drawings). Item 2 in Fig. 2 of Pett '535 is applied as the filter media extending axially between the end caps. This is not seen because filter media 2 in Pett '535 extends between items 3 and 4. Pett '535 is further applied as having at least one column extending axially between the end caps (1 and 9). Applicant has carefully reviewed Pett '535 but can find no such column. In the present application drawings, Fig. 4, the column is shown at 42. Pett '535 is further applied for having a column spaced from the axial opening. In claim 1, such axial opening (28, Fig. 4) is through the second end cap (24). The Examiner further notes that the column in Pett '535 is provided for receiving a post from the base mounting the filter to the base, noting item 11. Applicant has carefully reviewed Pett '535, but can find no column extending axially in the defined hollow interior of the filter media as required by claim 1, with such column having a sub-interior (46 in present Fig. 4) for receiving a post (50) extending axially thereinto from a base (54) for mounting the filter (20) to the base (54). To enable applicant to respond and distinguish his invention over the art, clarification of the rejection and application of the reference is respectfully requested.

For the Examiner's convenience, claim 1 is set forth below with supporting disclosure reference numerals inserted in parenthesis to facilitate review.

1. *A filter (20) comprising first and second axially (26) spaced end caps (22, 24), said second end cap (24) having an axial flow opening (28) therethrough, filter media (30) extending axially between said end caps (22, 24) and extending in a closed-loop around a perimeter defining a hollow interior (32) communicating with said axial flow opening (28), wherein fluid to be filtered flows laterally (38) through said filter media (30) and axially (40)*

through said hollow interior (32) and said axial flow opening (28), at least one column (42, 44) extending axially in said hollow interior (32) between said end caps (22, 24) and laterally spaced from said axial flow opening (28) in non-circumscribing relation, said column (42, 44) having a hollow sub-interior (46, 48) for receiving a post (50, 52) extending axially thereinto from a base (54) for mounting the filter (20) to the base (54).

In the Office Action, page 2, clause 2, claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Smith U.S. Patent 4,871,381. Items 60 and 62 are applied as the first and second axially spaced end caps, and the Examiner further notes:

...each pair of columns having a hollow sub-interior for a post applying axial compression force between end caps (Fig. 1, #26 and #28) mounted to a base (Fig. 12, #18).

Applicant has carefully reviewed Smith '381 but cannot find any columns. Applicant does note posts or threaded stud fasteners 26 and 28, but cannot find any columns. Furthermore, applicant cannot find columns extending between the end caps. Clarification is respectfully requested.

For the Examiner's convenience, claim 13 is set forth below with supporting disclosure reference numerals inserted in parenthesis to facilitate review.

13. *A filter (20) comprising first and second axially (26) spaced end caps (22, 24), said second end cap (24) having an axial flow opening (28) therethrough, filter media (30) extending axially between said end caps (22, 24) and extending in a closed-loop around a perimeter defining a hollow interior (32) communicating with said axial flow opening (28), wherein fluid to be filtered flows laterally (38) through said filter media (30) and axially (40)*

through said hollow interior (32) and said axial flow opening (28), a pair of columns (42, 44) extending axially in said hollow interior (32) between said end caps (22, 24) and laterally spaced from said axial flow opening (28) on laterally distally opposite sides thereof and in non-circumscribing relation therewith, each column (42, 44) having a hollow sub-interior (46, 48) for receiving a respective post (50, 52) extending axially thereinto from a base (54) for mounting the filter (20) to the base (54), the posts (50, 52) applying axial compression force between said end caps (22, 24) on laterally distally opposite sides of said axial flow opening (28), said columns (42, 44) supporting said axial compression force on laterally distally opposite sides of said axial flow opening (28).

In the Office Action, page 3, clause 3, claims 2-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pett '535 in view of Grant U.S. Patent 3,524,550. In this clause, the Examiner is applying items 3 and 4 of Pett '535 as the first and second end caps, which is different than the previous rejection applying items 1 and 9 of Pett '535 as the first and second end caps. Clarification is respectfully requested. In this clause, the Examiner applies item 10 of Pett '535 as the column extending axially between the end caps. As clearly seen in Figs. 1 and 2 of Pett '535, item 10 does not extend axially between items 3 and 4. Clarification is respectfully requested. In applying item 10 of Pett '535 as the column, the Examiner notes that it has sub-interior for a post, and specifically cites Fig. 5, item 29. In response, it is respectfully noted that Pett '535 only has two drawing figures and does not have a Fig. 5. Clarification is respectfully requested.

In the rejection, the Examiner notes:

Pett (535) discloses a filter comprising first and second axially spaced end caps (Fig. 2, #3 and #4) with a filter media (Fig. 2, #2) extending axially between said end caps extending in a close-loop, wherein at

least one column (Fig. 2, #10) extending axially between said end caps and spaced from said axial opening having a sub interior for a post (Fig. 5, #29) (Fig. 2, #12) (claim 1). However, Pett (535) fails to disclose a post applying axial force between said end caps without the need for inner and outer filter media liners (claim 3), wherein second end cap is adjacent said base and post extends axially through column sub-interior to first end cap (claim 4), comprising a seal sealing said sub-interior of said column from interior of said filter media to block contaminant flow (claim 5), wherein seal is located on column in circumscribing relation and in non-circumscribing relation to axial flow opening (claim 6). Grant (550) discloses a post applying axial compression between end caps (Fig. 1, #31 and #32) and column supports (Fig. 1, encompassing both sides of filter element (#19) without the need for inner and outer filter media liners (claim 2), wherein filter media has no inner or outer liner (Fig. 1) (claim 3), wherein second end cap is adjacent to said base (Fig. 1, item 24 meets with item 32) and post extending axially column sub-interior to first end cap (Fig. 1, #23) (claim 4). Grant (550) also discloses a filter comprising a seal of said filter media to block contaminant (Fig. 1, #38) (claim 5) and a seal located on filter element in circumscribing relation and in non-circumscribing relation to axial flow opening (Fig. 1, #31) (claim 6).

Clarification of the above rejection comments and application of the art is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, page 3, clause 4, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pett '535 in view of Janik et al. U.S. Patent 5,484,527. In applying Pett '535, the Examiner notes:

In view of Claim 7, Pett (535) discloses a filter comprising first and second axially spaced end caps (Fig. 2, #1 and #9) with a filter media (Fig. 2, #2) extending axially between said end caps extending in a close-loop, wherein at least one column extending axially between said end caps and spaced from said axial opening and for receiving a post from a base mounting the filter to the base, (Fig. 2, #11) and a seal sealing said sub-interior.

Clarification is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, page 4, clause 5, claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pett '535 as modified by Janik '527 in view of Kitson U.S. Patent 5,053,129. The Examiner notes:

Pett (535), as modified by, Janik (527) discloses a filter comprising first and second axially spaced end caps (Fig. 2, #1 and #9) with a filter media (Fig. 2, #2) extending axially between said end caps extending in a close-loop, wherein at least one column extending axially between said end caps and spaced from said axial opening and for receiving a post from a base mounting the filter to the base, (Fig. 2 #11)....

Clarification is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, page 5, clause 6, claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pett '535 in view of Kitson '129. The Examiner notes:

Pett (535) discloses a filter comprising first and second axially spaced ends caps (Fig. 2, #3 and #4) with a filter media (Fig. 2, #2) extending

axially between said end caps extending in a close-loop, wherein at least one column (Fig. 2, #10) extending axially between said end caps and spaced from said axial opening having a sub interior for a post (Fig. 2, #11) extending from a base (Fig. 2, #12) (claim 1).

Clarification is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, page 6, clause 7, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) over Pett '535 in view of Gachot U.S. Patent 3,578,014. The Examiner notes:

Pett (535) discloses a filter comprising first and second axially spaced end caps (Fig. 2, #3 and #4) with a filter media (Fig. 2, #2) extending axially between said end caps extending in a close-loop, wherein at least one column (Fig. 2, #10) extending axially between said end caps and spaced from said axial opening having a sub interior for a post (Fig. 2, #11) extending from a base (Fig. 2, #12) (claim 1).

Clarification is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, page 6, clause 8, claims 14-17, 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Smith '381 in view of Lentz U.S. Patent 1,861,805. The Examiner notes:

Smith (381) teaches first and second axially spaced end caps having axial flow opening (Fig. 1), wherein filter media extends between end caps (Fig. 1, #14), wherein each having a hollow sub-interior for a post applying axial compression force between end caps (Fig. 1, #26 and #28) mounted to a base (Fig. 12, #18).

Clarification is respectfully requested.

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In the Office Action, page 7, clause 9, claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pett '535 in view of Lentz '805. The Examiner notes:

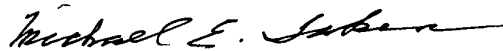
Pett (535) discloses a filter comprising first and second axially spaced end caps (Fig. 2, #3 and #4) with a filter media (Fig. 2, #2) extending axially between said end caps extending in a close-loop, wherein at least one column (Fig. 2, #10) extending axially between said end caps and spaced from said axial opening having a sub interior for a post (Fig. 2, #11) extending from a base (Fig. 2, #12) (claim 1).

Clarification is respectfully requested.

Clarification and re-consideration in view of the above remarks is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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